

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please cancel claims 67 and 70 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 68 and 78, as follows:

1-38 (Canceled).

39. (Previously Presented) A method of grinding an inorganic particulate material in an aqueous suspension, said aqueous suspension comprising a sub-effective amount of at least one dispersant for the inorganic particulate material.

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the inorganic particulate material comprises calcium carbonate.

41. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the inorganic particulate material comprises hydrous kandite clays.

42. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 41, wherein the hydrous kandite clays comprise kaolins.

43. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the aqueous suspension comprises up to about 50% by weight of the inorganic particulate material.

44. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the aqueous suspension comprises up to about 0.25% by weight of the at least one dispersant, based on the dry weight of the inorganic particulate material.

45. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 44, wherein the aqueous suspension comprises up to about 0.15% by weight of the at least one dispersant, based on the dry weight of the inorganic particulate material.

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 45, wherein the aqueous suspension comprises up to about 0.1% by weight of the at least one dispersant, based on the dry weight of the inorganic particulate material.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 46, wherein the aqueous suspension comprises up to about 0.05% by weight of the at least one dispersant, based on the dry weight of the inorganic particulate material.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the at least one dispersant is chosen from polyacrylates.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the at least one dispersant is chosen from polymetaphosphates.

50. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 49, wherein the polymetaphosphate is chosen from sodium hexametaphosphate and tetrasodium metaphosphate.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein, after grinding, an additional amount of a dispersant is added to the aqueous suspension.

52. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein, after grinding, an amount of water is removed from the aqueous suspension.

53. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, further comprising adjusting the solids level of the aqueous suspension after grinding to provide an aqueous suspension comprising the inorganic particulate material at a solids level above about 50% by weight, based on the total weight of the suspension.

54. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein, after grinding, the inorganic particulate material has a steepness factor above about 35.

55. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 54, wherein, after grinding, the inorganic particulate material has a steepness factor above about 40.

56. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 55, wherein, after grinding, the inorganic particulate material has a steepness factor above about 45.

57. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein, after grinding, the inorganic particulate matter has an increased steepness.

58. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, further comprising dewatering the aqueous suspension after grinding, to achieve a solids content above about 50% by weight of the inorganic particulate material.

59. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the resultant ground inorganic particulate material is dried after treatment.

60. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the resultant ground inorganic particulate material is added to:

- a paper or paper pulp to provide a coating or filler therefore, and/or
- a composition which is subsequently processed to obtain a paper.

61. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the resultant ground inorganic particulate material is added to:

- a polymer or rubber, and/or
- to a composition which is subsequently processed to obtain a polymer or rubber.

62. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 61, wherein the polymer is a plastics material.

63. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 61, wherein the resultant polymer is formed into a film.

64. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the resultant ground inorganic particulate material is added to:

- a paint, and/or
- a composition which is subsequently processed to obtain a paint.

65. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the resultant ground inorganic particulate material is added to:

- a sealant or mastic, and/or
- a composition which is subsequently processed to obtain a sealant or mastic.

66. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 39, wherein the resultant ground inorganic particulate material is added to:

- a ceramic, and/or
- a composition which is subsequently processed to obtain a ceramic.

67. (Canceled).

68. (Currently Amended) An aqueous suspension of [[a]] at least one ground inorganic particulate material comprising a sub-effective amount of a dispersant for the at least one inorganic particulate material prepared by a method of grinding [[an]] at least one inorganic particulate material in an aqueous suspension, wherein said aqueous suspension comprises a sub-effective amount of at least one dispersant for the at least one inorganic particulate material.

69. (Previously Presented) An aqueous suspension of a ground inorganic particulate material comprising a dispersant-effective amount of a dispersant for the inorganic particulate material, wherein said aqueous suspension is prepared by a method of grinding an inorganic particulate material in an aqueous suspension, said aqueous suspension comprising a sub-effective amount of at least one dispersant for the inorganic particulate material and adding, after grinding, a dispersant to the aqueous suspension.

70. (Canceled).

71. (Previously Presented) A dry ground inorganic particulate material comprising an amount of a dispersant for the inorganic particulate material, the material being the dry residue of an aqueous suspension according to claim 68.

72. (Previously Presented) A dry ground inorganic particulate material comprising an amount of a dispersant for the inorganic particulate material, the material being the dry residue of an aqueous suspension according to claim 69.

73. (Previously Presented) A paper or paper pulp, when prepared by a method according to claim 60.

74. (Previously Presented) A polymer or rubber, when prepared by a method according to claim 61.

75. (Previously Presented) A paint, when prepared by a method according to claim 64

76. (Previously Presented) A sealant or mastic, when prepared by a method according to claim 65.

77. (Previously Presented) A ceramic, when prepared by a method according to claim 66.

78. (Currently Amended) A process of inhibiting corrosion [[in]] during grinding of a low solids aqueous suspension of inorganic particulate material comprising the

addition of a sub-effective amount of at least one dispersant for said inorganic particulate material as a corrosion inhibitor in a low solids aqueous suspension.